

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5484

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3959

USNMR SHAPE

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CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2422

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING MAY 2: COLLOCATED BASE BRIEFING

REF: A. STATE 66318 NOTAL

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SUMMARY. EXCELLENT BRIEFING BY USAF ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASE (COB) CONCEPT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY ALLIED AMBASSADORS AT DPC MEETING MAY 2. BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTED THE LACK OF BASES IN ACE FOR USAF REINFORCING AIRCRAFT AS MAJOR PROBLEM CONFRONTING ALLIANCE; AND US CAPABILITY FOR RAPID AIR REINFORCEMENT AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN DETERRING CONFLICT BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT. PERMREPS' COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SHOWED EMERGING SUPPORT FOR COLLOCATED BASE CONCEPT. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM), WITH CONCURRENCE OF SYG LUNS, SUGGESTED THAT THE US CONSIDER SOUNDING OUT FRENCH THROUGH BILATERAL CHANNELS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR WILLINGNESS TO OFFER COB'S ON FRENCH SOIL. END SUMMARY.

1. USAF BRIEFING ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL RECEIVED BY PERMREPS AT THE DEFENSE PLANNING

COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, SYG LUNS EMPHASIZED POLITICAL AND MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF 1000 US AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO REINFORCE ACE BY M PLUS 30. US REP (MC AULIFFE) INTRODUCED THE US BRIEFING TEAM TO PERMREPS STRESSING CLEAR AND PRESSING NEED FOR EUROPEAN BASES FOR USAF AIRCRAFT, AND MERITS OF COLLOCATED BASE CONCEPT AS REASONABLE AND SENSIBLE PROPOSAL TO SOLVE PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS COLLECTIVE DEFENSE AND THE SECURITY OF EVERY ALLY. US PROPOSAL SEEKS TO TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE ALREADY EXISTING ALLIED FACILITIES IN ACE AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS AND PLAN IN ADVANCE SO THAT REINFORCING USAF TACTICAL SQUADRONS CAN BE EMPLOYED MOST EFFECTIVELY DURING PERIODS OF TENSION AND/OR CONFLICT.

2. USAFE BRIEFING CLEARLY AND COGENTLY POSED QUESTION: HOW CAN ALLIES PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASING IN ACE FOR US AND ALLIED TACTICAL AIR UNITS WHICH COULD BE CALLED UPON TO DEFEND THE ALLIANCE UNDER THE NATO 14/3 STRATEGY. PRESENT SITUATION WHICH WOULD REQUIRE BASE LOADING OF 109 AIRCRAFT PER USAF BASE VS. 36 FOR NON-US ALLIED AIR BASES IN THE CENTRAL REGION OFFERS TEMPTING TARGET FOR ANY AGGRESSOR AND MAKES MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION PROBLEMS ALMOST UNMANAGEABLE. THE CONCEPT OF COLLOCATING SOME US AIRCRAFT ON EXISTING ALLIED AIRFIELDS DURING EMERGENCIES AND IN A CONFLICT SITUATION WOULD ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM, AND THUS PROVIDE ENTIRE ALLIANCE WITH GREATER DETERRENT CAPABILITY. RAPID AIR REINFORCEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN DETERRING OUTBREAK OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT, BECAUSE IT WOULD SIGNAL THE POLITICAL UNITY AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF NATO TO RESPOND TO PACT AGGRESSION.

3. THE USAFE BRIEFING IDENTIFIED SIX BASES IN THE UK, TEN IN THE FRG, THREE IN THE NETHERLANDS, FOUR IN ITALY, FIVE IN GREECE AND THREE IN TURKEY WHICH, TOGETHER WITH EXISTING USAFE

BASES WILL ACCOMMODATE ALMOST 1800 HIGHLY CAPABLE IN-PLACE AND REINFORCING AIRCRAFT. BRIEFING INDICATED THAT US AIRCRAFT
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COULD BE IN PLACE AT SELECTED BASES IN EUROPE IN LESS THAN 12 HOURS AFTER TAKE OFF. IF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, FORCES WILL BE BETTER DISTRIBUTED AND COMBAT CAPABILITY IMPROVED. THE BRIEFER CALLED FOR NATO SUPPORT OF THE COLLOCATED BASE CONCEPT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING OF ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS.

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4. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING SYG LUNS DESCRIBED THE PRESENTATION AS IMPRESSIVE AND MOST INFORMATIVE; AND HE URGED ALL PERMREPS TO REPORT ITS SUBSTANCE TO THEIR CAPITALS. AT THE REQUEST OF GREEK PERMREP CHORAFAS AND SYG LUNS, USNATO HAS DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE BRIEFING TO ALLIED DELEGATIONS.

5.FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, THE US REP (CM AULIFFE) SAID THAT ALTHOUGH USAF BRIEFING HAD DWELT ON PROBLEM IN CENTRAL REGION OF ACE, US IS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE BASES ON BOTH FLANKS, AND IS GIVING THEM EQUAL ATTENTION. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN SLIDES HAD SHOWN THAT NO US AIRCRAFT AND NO US MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD BE STATIONED ON COB'S IN PEACETIME, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT SITUATION MIGHT ARISE WHERE IT MIGHT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WITH CONCURRENCE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS BE DESIRABLE TO DEPLOY USAF SQUADRONS TO ACE IN A TIME OF CRISIS SHORT OF WAR. PECK (UK) EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE BASING CON-
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CEPT, NOTING THAT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS MUST BE DETERMINED BEFORE ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED. HE SUGGESTED THAT SACEUR BEGIN TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING REMEDIES WHICH IS AN ALLIANCE-WIDE PROBLEM. PECK ADDED THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST PROMPTLY WORK OUT SATISFACTORY COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE REINFORCING USAF AIRCRAFT BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS CAN ADDRESS MATTER OF COSTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT. FINALLY, PECK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD RAF AND USAF HAD ALREADY SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PROVIDING FOR COLLOCATED BASING IN THE UK. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE (MINTER)

REPORTED THAT SAME BRIEFING HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE LAST WEEK, AND TOOK NOTE OF REQUEST FOR SACEUR'S PARTICIPATION. HE EXPLAINED ALL US NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS POINT HAD BEEN ON AN EXCLUSIVELY BILATERAL BASIS WITH SELECTED ALLIES; THAT UNTIL THESE BILATERAL MATTERS REACHED A CERTAIN STAGE, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT NATO AUTHORITIES MIGHT DO; AND THAT THE FACT THAT THESE AIRCRAFT ARE NOT ALL EARMARKED LIMITS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP.

6. PERMREP QUESTIONS CENTERED AROUND THE POLICY FOR USING RESERVE AIRFIELDS, SACEUR PARTICIPATION, THE DESIRABILITY OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, ASSOCIATED STUDIES, AND THE EFFECT ON THE US DEPLOYMENT PLAN IN FRANCE ENTERED THE CONFLICT WITH NATO. BELGIAN REP (DE STAERCKE) ASKED IF RESERVE AIRFIELDS WERE CONSIDERED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. BGEN NORRIS, BRIEFING TEAM CHIEF, RESPONDED THAT THEY MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR AIRCRAFT ARRIVING LATER, AND TO TACTICAL AIRLIFT. GEN NORRIS STRESSED THE NEED FOR AIRCRAFT ARRIVING EARLY AFTER M-DAY TO BE CAPABLE OF IMMEDIATELY FLYING COMBAT MISSIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT THE RESERVE AIRFIELDS MAY NOT PROVIDE THE NEEDED SUPPORT FOR SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE ALSO STATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS REMAINED TO BE MADE FOR US AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT. CANADIAN REP (MENZIES) RAISED THE QUESTION OF STUDIES ASSOCIATED WITH ARRANGING FACILITIES FOR REINFORCING AIRCRAFT AND SUGGESTED MOVING INTO MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. GEN NORRIS ANSWERED THAT THE USAF WAS STILL ENGAGED IN INITIAL PLANNING AND COSTING. SYG LUNS FURTHER POINTED OUT THE BILATERAL NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PLANNING WOULD COME LATER. THE NETHERLANDS REP (HARTOGH) CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORTED THE CANADIAN IDEA OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, STRESSING THAT THE BASING CONCEPT WAS AN ALLIANCE PROBLEM. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO DE STAERCKE'S QUESTION ON US USE OF FACILITIES IN FRANCE, LUNS SUGGESTED THAT THE US SOUND OUT THE FRENCH ON THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THEIR FACILITIES DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT.

7. MISSION BELIEVES THE COB BRIEFING BY USAFE PROVIDED USEFUL INFORMATION TO PERMREPS WHICH SHOULD BENEFIT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SELECTED ALLIES. MORE IMPORTANT, MAY 2 PRESENTATION TO DPC AMBASSADORS ESTABLISHED INFORMATION BASE FOR ALL ALLIES WHICH SHOULD ASSIST IN OBTAINING SYMPATHETIC RECEPTION TO REQUESTS FOR NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AT A LATER DATE. RUMSFELD.

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